



U.S. Department of Justice

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To Victims of Blake A. Prater

Re: U.S. v. Blake A. Prater - Docket No. 3:06CR001 (JBA);
USAO No. 2003R00495

On January 4, 2006, a federal grand jury sitting in Hartford, Connecticut, returned an 18-count sealed Indictment charging **BLAKE A. PRATER**, a resident of Guilford, Connecticut, with securities fraud, mail fraud, and money laundering. The Indictment was ordered unsealed on January 11, 2006.

Defendant **BLAKE A. PRATER** was formerly President and Director of Wellspring Capital Group, Inc., a company not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as an investment company, investment advisor, or broker dealer; neither was the company registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD"). The indictment alleges that beginning in or about September 2002, and continuing until in or about September 2003, **BLAKE A. PRATER**, by use of means and instruments of interstate commerce, in the offer and sale of securities, (1) employed a device, scheme, and artifice to defraud, (2) obtained money and property by means of untrue statements of material facts and omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, and (3) engaged in transactions, practices, and courses of business that operated as a fraud and deceit upon the purchasers of these securities.

On January 13, 2006, **BLAKE A. PRATER** was arraigned before the Honorable Judge Magistrate Joan G. Margolis, at the Federal Courthouse, 141 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut, at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Prater pleaded not guilty to the 18-count indictment. **A trial is tentatively scheduled for February 28, 2006**, before the Honorable Janet B. Arterton, United States District Court Judge, 141 Church Street, New Haven, CT. Please contact this website for updated information regarding this case.

As a crime victim, you have the following rights under 18 United States Code § 3771:

(1) The right to be reasonably protected from the accused; **(2)** The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused; **(3)** The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding; **(4)** The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding; **(5)** The reasonable right to confer

with the attorney for the Government in the case; **(6)** The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law; **(7)** The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; **(8)** The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

We will make our best efforts to ensure you are accorded the rights described. You can seek the advice of an attorney with respect to these rights.

In cases which involve a significant number of victims, the most effective way to get timely notice to victims is through our Website. This case has been identified as a “Multi-Victim Prosecution,” and therefore all future correspondence will be through our office Website at **www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct/multi-victim-updates.html** (Please use lower case letters). For a copy of the indictment, please go to the press release section of our website, located at **www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct**.

In addition, you are welcome to contact the United States Attorney’s Office’s toll free number at 1-888-645-5807 to provide us with your contact information and any other information you wish. You may also choose to provide us with an email address and contact information by contacting our email at **usact.vns@usdoj.gov**. Please note that due to the extremely large number of victims involved in this case, we are unable to respond individually to messages submitted via the phone line or email address.